

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

50. (Twice amended) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within β -strand 7 and connecting the β -strand 7, via short β -strand 8, to α -helix 4, and ending within α -helix 4, based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said isolated peptide does not have toxin agonist activity and is capable of antagonizing toxin-mediated activation of T lymphocytes.

51. (Amended) The isolated and purified peptide of Claim 50 wherein the amino acid sequence of said peptide is homologous to amino acids 150-161 of *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin B (SEQ. ID NO.: 1).

65. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 1 wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity.

66. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 2.

67. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 3 wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity.

68. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 4.

69. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 5.

70. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 6.

71. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 7.

72. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 8.

73. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 9.

74. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 10.

75. (Amended) An isolated peptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ. ID NO.: 11.

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76. (Amended) A composition which inhibits pyrogenic exotoxin-mediated activation of T-lymphocytes comprising an isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within β -strand 7 and connecting the β -strand 7, via short β -strand 8, to α -helix 4, and ending within α -helix 4, based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, in an amount effective to inhibit exotoxin-induced expression of an RNA encoded by the IL-2, INF- γ and/or TNF- β genes, and a carrier.

80. (Amended) An immunogenic composition for eliciting antibodies that block pyrogenic exotoxin mediated activation of T-lymphocytes comprising an isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within β -strand 7 and connecting the β -strand 7, via short β -strand 8, to α -helix 4, and ending within α -helix 4,

based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, in an amount effective to elicit said antibodies, and a carrier.

Rule 85
 85. (New) An immunogenic composition for eliciting protective immunity against toxic shock comprising an isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence homologous to an amino acid sequence of a domain of a pyrogenic exotoxin which domain forms a central turn in the exotoxin starting within β -strand 7 and connecting the β -strand 7, via short β -strand 8, to α -helix 4, and ending within α -helix 4, based on the domain numbering of SEB, wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, in an amount effective to elicit said protective immunity, and a carrier.

86
 86. (New) The composition of claim 76 wherein said peptide has an amino acid sequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of amino acids 150-161 of *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin B (SEQ ID NO:1).

87
 87. (New) The immunogenic composition of claim 80 wherein said peptide has an amino acid sequence homologous to the amino acid sequence of amino acids 150-161 of *Staphylococcus aureus* enterotoxin B (SEQ ID NO:1).

88
 88. (New) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence KXaa₍₃₎TXaaQEXaaD wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, wherein Xaa is an amino acid.

Sub 89
 89. (New) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence KXXaa₍₆₎LD wherein said peptide does not have toxin agonist activity, wherein Xaa is an amino acid.

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 89. (New) An isolated and purified peptide having an amino acid sequence charged amino acid-Xaa₍₂₎-hydrophobic amino acid-X-hydrophobic amino acid-polar amino